

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/VN:OABARTLEY:JCM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, VS
SUBJECT: POTOMAC ASSOCIATES POLL ON VIET-NAM

REF: SAIGON 14012

1. SUBJECT POLL WAS PUBLISHED IN ARTICLE ENTITLED
"STATE OF THE NATION-1974" IN "INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
MAGAZINE. ENTIRE VIET-NAM ITEM FOLLOWS:
BEGIN
QUOTE

VIETNAM

IN 1972 ONE OF THE LEADING CONCERNS OF AMERICANS WAS
THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAM. NOW, TWO YEARS LATER, THE PUBLIC
UNDOUBTEDLY HAS A SENSE OF WEARY RELIEF THAT AT LONG LAST
AMERICAN FORCES ARE NO LONGER INVOLVED IN COMBAT IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA. NOR DO MOST OF OUR CITIZENS SHOW REGRET
OR REMORSE OVER THE WAY WE GOT OUT. WHEN ASKED THEIR
VIEWS ON THE SETTLEMENT REACHED IN VIETNAM, AMERICANS IN
OUR 1974 SURVEY INDICATED THAT WE HAD DONE THE BEST WE
COULD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

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NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT

VIETNAM. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED FIGHTING THERE,
DO YOU FEEL THAT, IN NEGOTIATING THE TERMS AND
CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH AMERICAN FORCES WERE PULLED
OUT OF VIETNAM, THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES MADE THE BEST DEAL IT COULD TO
SETTLE THE CONFLICT, OR NOT?

---	DID	69 PERCENT
---	DID NOT	20
---	DON'T KNOW	11
----	TOTAL	100 PERCENT

ALTHOUGH THE PEACE ARRANGEMENT DID NOT PUT AN END
TO FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA, ALMOST SEVEN RESPONDENTS OUT
OF TEN APPROVED THE SETTLEMENT OUR GOVERNMENT MADE IN
ENDING THE U.S. COMBAT ROLE THERE. THIS ENDORSEMENT
REACHED A HIGH POINT OF 85 PERCENT AMONG REPUBLICANS.
BUT AMERICANS GAVE A MIXED RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION
WHETHER WE SHOULD NOW COMPLETELY TURN OUR BACKS ON
THOSE WHOM WE HAD SUPPORTED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WE ASKED:

WITH THE FIGHTING STILL GOING ON, DO YOU THINK
THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TPROVIDE
MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO HELP IT COMBAT THE COMMUNIST
FORCES, OR NOT?

---	SHOULD	40 PERCENT
----	SHOULD NOT	49
---	DON'T KNOW	11
---	TOTAL	100 PERCENT

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM
REACHED THE MAJORITY LEVEL, FAR ABOVE THE OVERALL FIGURE
OF 40 PERCENT, AMONG THOSE IN THE NEXT TO THE TOP INCOME
BRACKET (WITH FAMILY INCOMES OF DOLS 15,000 TO DOLS
19,999 PER YEAR), RESIDENTS OF MEDIUM-SIZED (50,000 TO
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499,999) CITIES, THOSE WHO CLASSIFIED THEMSELVES AS VERY
CONSERVATIVE, AND, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THE YOUNG
(EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY-NINE YEARS OF AGE). REPUBLICANS AS
A WHOLE DID NOT JOIN THESE GROUPS; THEY WERE SPLIT
PRECISELY DOWN THE MIDDLE ON THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING
MILITARY AID TO VIETNAM WITH 44 PERCENT IN FAVOR, 44
PERCENT AGAINST.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PREDOMINANT DESIRE TO END
MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM REACHED SUBSTANTIAL

MAJORITY PROPORTIONS AMONG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE EAST
AND IN OUR LARGER CITIES GENERALLY (WITH POPULATIONS
OF 500,000 OR MORE), DEMOCRATS, SELF-DESIGNATED
LIBERALS, THE ELDERLY (SIXTY-FIVE AND OVER), THOSE WITH
ONLY A GRADE SCHOOL EDUCATION, AND THE POOR (WITH
FAMILY INCOMES OF LESS THAN DOLS 5,000 PER YEAR). ALL
OF THESE GROUPS PRESUMABLY BELIEVED, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, THAT DOLLARS ALLOCATED TO SUCH MILITARY
EXPENDITURES COULD BETTER BE USED TO MEET MORE
PRESSING PROBLEMS HERE AT HOME. END QUOTE

2. POLL WAS TAKEN AT END OF APRIL, 1974. REGRET SIZE
OF SAMPLE NOT AVAILABLE.

3. PLEASE NOTE THAT PROPORTIONS FAVORING AND OPPOSED TO
CONTINUING MILITARY AID WERE ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN
POST EDITORIAL (PARA 11 STATE 245243). MAW

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